

# Each unique doll lives in its own fantasy world

Collection of Alexey Martynov's dolls on show in Minsk

By Igor Nesmelov

Every doll is brought to life by the warm hands of Mr. Martynov, who sews each costume individually, adding decorative edging, beads and embroidered threads. Nothing is glued, making each an original work of art rather than a simple toy or model. They would surely enchant the hearts of all children, but also appeal to adults in their complexity.

"The master who creates a doll is connecting various worlds: reality, where we see an item made from ceramic and textiles, and another world, where the doll comes to life," notes Minsk's Culture Department. "Alexey Martynov mentions other worlds when speaking of his creativity, giving independent life to each of his dolls; they have their own character, manner and home." The exhibition continues until April 27th.

**Religious artefacts on fast track**

**Customs services of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia simplify border crossing for religious purpose items**

A corresponding memorandum was signed by Igor Kaletnik — the Chairman of the State Customs Service of Ukraine, Alexander Shpilevsky — the Chairman of the State Customs Committee of Belarus, and Andrey Belianinov — the Head of the Federal Customs Service of Russia, during a meeting in Kiev.

The document envisages the simplification of border crossing for items used for religious purposes — but not uncontrolled movement. It primarily refers to contemporary artworks, which are made by talented artists from our three countries.

Preparations for the final matches of the 2012 UEFA European Football Championship, in Ukraine, have also been discussed. The customs services have agreed to allocate separate traffic lanes and to define a list of responsible officials in each customs service, organising a group of experts during EURO-2012, to be based at the Monitoring Centre of the State Customs Service of Ukraine.

Prompt information sharing between the heads of customs points and subdivisions of customs clearance will be carried out with the help of a special communication channel. If necessary, during EURO-2012, remote working places will be organised at checkpoints for conducting control procedures. Experts will also be working on co-operation in the field of customs costs, the cost of risk profiles and their criteria.



Artist Alexey Martynov and his dolls which are awarded the right to be displayed at museum exhibition

## Unique violin plays its role

Belarusian State Music Academy graduate Artem Shishkov wins third award at Berlin International Max Rostal Competition for Viola and Violin



Artem Shishkov performs

At present, Artem is taking a post-graduate course at the Vienna University of Music and Performing Arts, lectured by Dora Schwarzberg. He has previously won several violin competitions

and, in 2005, was granted a grand scholarship by the Special Fund of the President of Belarus for Support of Talented Youth.

For the competition, Artem borrowed a unique violin (made by famous Italian Andrea Guarneri) — purchased by Belarus' Culture Ministry especially for the use of talented young musicians at prestigious international contests.

The International Max Rostal Competition for Viola and Violin is organised within the World Federation of International Music Competitions (set up in 1991 in memory of Max Rostal — a violin and viola player and teacher of many famous musicians across the generations). The event aims to support young talent.

## Andrey Smirnov triumphs at NIKA

**25th Russian NIKA Film Awards recognises Andrey Smirnov's *There Once Was a Country Woman* historical drama — partially shot at Belarusfilm Studio**

The producer of the famous *Belarusian Railway Station* film also wrote the script and directed (jointly with his wife Yelena). *There Once Was a Country Woman* won six prizes: 'Best Film', 'Best Script', 'Best Female Role' (Darya Yekamasova), 'Best Supporting Male Role' (Roman Madyanov), 'Best Artist' and 'Best Costumes'.

"Mr. Smirnov's victory is absolutely deserved," admits Honoured Artist of Belarus Ivan Matskevich, who acted



Andrey Smirnov with NIKA

in the film. "The story was unusual, as epics have fallen out of popularity recently. I was happy to be asked by Andrey to participate, alongside Lyudmila Matskevich and Olesya Pukhovaya."

Speaking of Mr. Smirnov's phenomenal success, Mr. Matskevich stresses, "He is a great professional yet modest. At work, he always knows exactly what he wants his actors to do — which is rare. I'm sincerely happy that he is directing again after his many-year break."

Andrey Zvyagintsev's *Yelena* claimed the second largest number of NIKA awards. Nadezhda Markina and Darya Yekamasova were acknowledged the best female actresses and Mr. Zvyagintsev's directorship was praised, as was the camera work of Mikhail Krichman. Meanwhile, Yelena Lyadova won 'Best Supporting Female Role'.

## History's rarities unveiled

By Veronika Serafimova

**Five unique 17th-early 20th century candlesticks donated to Ruzhany Palace Estate of Sapegi Museum by Ruzhany's Holy Trinity Catholic Church**

The two candlesticks from the late 17th century (made from lead-tin, brass-copper, lead-zinc and bronze-silver) found their way to the church around two centuries ago and have been kept hidden until recently. Museum Director Ruslan Kniga eagerly explains that the candlesticks originally came from the Ruzhany Palace of Sapegi.

In fact, the museum has recently gained around 1,000 16th century coins (some found during archaeological digs around the western wing and the remainder donated by local residents).

Ruzhany library has been hosting events dedicated to the 455th anniversary of the birth of Lev Sapega, a Chancellor of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. The Holy Trinity Catholic Church, where the candlesticks have been kept, was founded in 1617 by Sapega. "This year, we're celebrating the 460th anniversary of the first mention of Ruzhany in written chronicles and the 375th anniversary of Ruzhany's receiving the Magdeburg Right," adds Mr. Kniga.



Decoration at Sapegi Palace

Increasing numbers of tourists are keen to learn the history of this settlement, which was once owned by the Sapegi. The palace-residence is being restored and a museum has opened. The real tourist season is yet to begin but around 1,500 guests from Belarus, Russia and the Baltic States have already visited the museum since the beginning of the year.

## Chagall's pictures to appear in centre of Minsk

**Artist's best pictures to decorate the city to mark his 125th birthday**

The event is part of a major artistic project being held from June to September: *The Artist and the City*. Its main task is to bring Chagall's works out from the museum onto the street via posters along Yakub Kolas Street. Around 10-15 reproductions are planned.